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OCI No. 1959/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
23 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #285 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

The failure of extremists in the rebel camp to promote a nationwide general strike has been a blow to their cause as reports indicate a continuing deterioration of conditions in the rebel-held portion of Santo Domingo.

The several plants in the northern part of Santo Domingo which were affected by the strike call on Monday were able to reopen yesterday, some with only a few workers but others with up to 75 percent attendance. Only the sugar mill at La Romana was still struck yesterday, and there was some hope that it would be able to reopen today. There were only minor episodes of civil unrest in the town of La Romana and environs.

The rebel radio, though still claiming widespread support for the strike, was conceding yesterday that there would have been more worker response had it not been for the "bestial" repression by the loyalist military throughout the country.

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State Dept. review completed

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There have been no strikes reported in the city of San Francisco de Macoris and US Government officers who visited there yesterday found everything quiet.

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Back in Santo Domingo, the US Embassy is receiving a growing number of reports indicating a deteriorating situation in the rebel-held area. There are a number of reports of looting of downtown businesses and of rebels putting the financial bite on commercial establishments. There are also reports of serious disagreements among rebel factions with regard to the advisability of the general strike effort and on the OAS peace proposals. Indicative of the continuing decline in morale in the rebel camp are the increasing numbers of persons seeking asylum in foreign embassies. Thirteen people from the rebel zone are reported to have sought asylum in the Chilean embassy on Monday, including the editor of the rebel newspaper La Nacion, which has not been printed for several days. The Colombian and Mexican embassies also have new asylees.

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The Caamano representatives are expected to deliver their counter-proposals to the OAS committee

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today after postponing yesterday's scheduled meeting with the committee on the plea that they were not ready. The rebels are expected to suggest a number of modifications in the OAS proposals for a solution to the crisis, but are evidently under pressure to accept the OAS formula "in principle."

The Imbert government is clearly holding up its own formal response until the rebels reveal their counter-proposals. The radio stations controlled by the Imbert government, which do not however necessarily speak for the government, were broadcasting bitter attacks on the OAS proposals yesterday. The only proper "Dominican" solution to the crisis, according to the broadcast, is for the OAS publicly to admit that the dispute is between democrats and Communists and to allow the Dominican forces to "destroy the Communist hordes."

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